

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-75 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 76-108 have been added and are pending.

The applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I. The claims have been amended above and include the subject matter of the Examiner's Groups I, II and X-XIV as the applicants believe the claimed subject matter defines a single invention. Examination of all the pending claims is requested along with consideration of the following comments relating thereto.

The Examiner is urged to appreciate that now canceled claims 35 and 36 have been combined and rewritten as new claim 76.

The definition of substituent A in claim 76 additionally includes "hydroxy", as described at page 10, line 28 of the specification wherein it is stated that "the preferred compounds of formula (I) are those of formula (II)". For formula (II) to fall wholly within formula (I) substituent A must include the possibility of hydroxy.

Now canceled claim 38 has been rewritten as new claim 78 above and includes the definition of R⁵ to be consistent with the definition of R in now-canceled claim 35, and to avoid the repetition of "phenyl" in the definition of R⁵. Page 11, line 17 of the specification describes R⁵ as "cyclohexyl, phenoxy or benzoxy" (see, also former claim 68 and the passage at page 13, line 9).

Now canceled claims 63 and 64, have been rewritten as new claims 96 and 97, and specify that the inhibitor is "of the second enzyme".

Now-canceled claims 71 to 75 have been rewritten as new claims 104-108 and recite that the inhibitor or compound is that of formula (I).

No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a method of treating a host infected with a virus of the Flaviviridae, Rhabdoviridae or Paramyxoviridae family, which method comprises administering to the host an inhibitor of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase which is a compound of formula (I).

The presently claimed invention provides a method of treating a host infected with the specific viruses by administering a compound of formula (I). The subject matter of the Examiner's Group I includes compounds of formulas (I) and (Ia).

The Examiner is urged to appreciate that page 10, line 28 of the specification discloses that "Amongst preferred compounds of formula (I) are those of formula (II)". Specific examples of compounds of formula (II) are shown in the Table at pages 11 to 12, and a particular preferred example of formula (II) is Brequinar, which has the formula (IIb) (see, page 12 line 14 to page 13 line 1).

Therefore, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the methods of the invention including compounds (I) and (Ia) share a single general inventive concept. Further, since compounds of formula (II) are specific examples of formula (I) and Brequinar (formula IIb) is a specific example of formula (II) then the compounds of now canceled

claims 38 and 39, which define the subject matter of the Examiner's Group II, are wholly dependent on and included within new claim 76 and also share a single general inventive concept with the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I. Therefore, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group II is submitted to define a common inventive concept with the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I and examination of the subject matter of the Examiner's Groups I and II is requested.

Specific examples of novel compounds of formula (II) include compounds of formula (IIa), which define the subject matter of the Examiner's Group X (see, claims 101-102 above). Claim 103 provides a process for producing a compound of formula (IIa). As the compounds of formula (IIa) are specific compounds of formula (II) which itself represents particular compounds of formula (I), claims 101-103 disclose preferred novel compounds falling wholly within formula (I). Therefore, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group X is submitted to share a common inventive concept with the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I and II.

Now-canceled claims 71 to 75 have been rewritten as new claims 104-108 and refer to inhibitors of formula (I). Former claim 71 and pending claim 104 relate to an anti-flavivirus, anti-rhabdovirus and anti-paramyxovirus agent comprising an inhibitor of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase which is a compound of formula (I). Former claims 72 to 74 and pending claims 105-107 relate to products for treating the viral infection comprising the inhibitor of formula (I) taken together with one or both of interferon and an inhibitor of a second enzyme. Former claim 75 and pending claim 108 relate to a

method for identifying the antiviral agent using a test compound which is a compound of formula (I). Therefore, the subject matter of each of the Examiner's Invention Groups XI to XIV, which the Examiner defines by reference to claims 71-75, specify that the inhibitor is a compound of formula (I), and all these pending claims now clearly share a common inventive concept with subject matter of the Examiner's Group I.

The amended claims are submitted to define methods of treating Flaviviridae, Rhabdoviridae or Paramyxoviridae viral infections using an inhibitor of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase which is a compound formula (I), or to anti-flavivirus, anti-rhabdovirus or anti-paramyxovirus agents or products comprising the compound of formula (I), or to a method for identifying an antiviral agent using a test compound which is a compound of formula (I). Particular examples of compounds of formula (I) include compounds of formula (Ia) and compounds of formula (II). Specific examples of compounds of formula (II) include Brequinar (formula IIb) and novel compounds of formula (IIa).

Therefore, the pending claims share a single common general inventive concept, and examination of all of the pending claims, as a single invention, is requested.

For completeness, the applicants note that the compound of formula (IV), 1-(p-bromophenyl)-2-methyl-1H-naphth[2,3-d]imidazole-4,9-dione(BNID), is a specific example of a compound of formula (III) (see page 15 line 19 to page 16 line 9), such that the subject matter of the Examiner's Groups IV and V are submitted to share a single common general inventive concept.

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Similarly, the compound of formula (VI), dichloroallyl lawsone, is a specific example of a compound of formula (V) (see page 16 line 15 to 27), such that the subject matter of the Examiner's Groups VI and VII share a single common inventive general inventive concept.

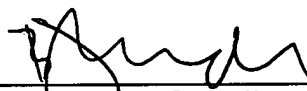
Moreover, the compound of formula (VIII), 2,2'-[3,3'-dimethoxy[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diyl]diimino]bis-benzoic acid (redoxal), is a specific compound of formula (VII) (see page 17 lines 2 to 17), such that the subject matter of the Examiner's Invention Groups VIII and IX share a single common general inventive concept.

Examination of all the pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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